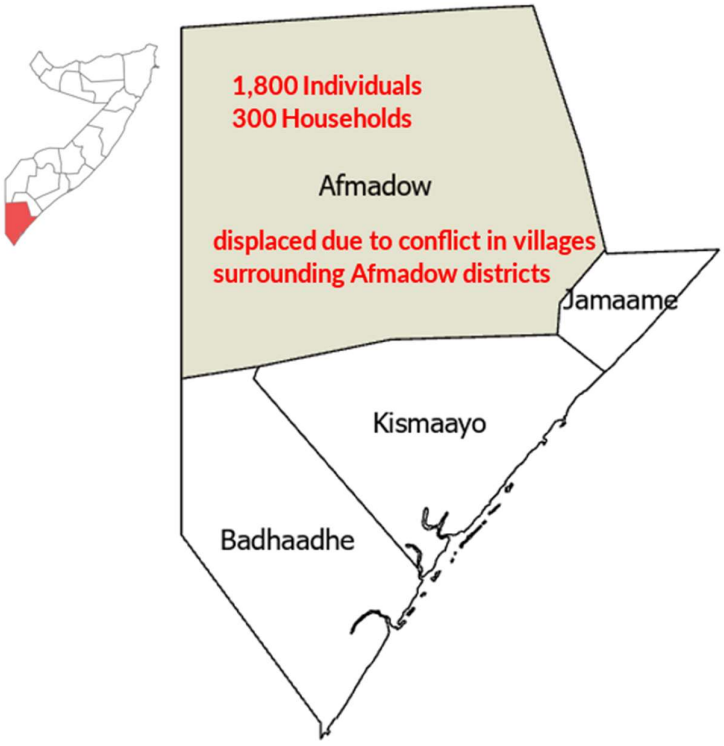
Jubbaland Forces' Conflict with Al-Shabaab in Villages Surrounding Afmadow District Displaces Approximately 1,800 Individuals

Displaced Families	300
Displaced Individuals	1,800
Deaths	2
Injuries	3
Coordinates	0.5151° N, 42.0757° E
Incident Date	July 22, 2024
HCT Priority District	Yes[1]



Situational Overview

A military intervention against Al-Shabaab (AS) conducted by Jubbaland forces with the support of the Somali National Army (SNA), took place in the villages of Harbole, Mido, Bibi, Soya, and Bula-Haji in Afmadow district, Lower Jubba. The military intervention was intended to open routes controlled by Al-Shabaab and to secure major roads including Kismayo-Afmadow, Dhobley-Afmadow to improve access to major towns.

Previous Location	Current Location	#Households
Horbole	Afmadow	118
Miido	Afmadow	115
Bibi	Afmadow	37
Soya	Afmadow	30
300 HHs with approximately 1,800 individuals		

The conflict impacted local community residents in the abovementioned villages, displacing approximately 300 households consisting of 1,800 individuals. The Protection and Solutions Monitoring Network (PSMN) recorded vulnerable people among the displaced, including 11 lactating women and 13 persons with disabilities. The displaced people that managed to arrive in Afmadow township showed signs of exhaustion, having traveled on foot for around 30 kilometers.

The risk of AS launching a counterattack on positions held by Jubbaland and SNA forces is very high, which could intensify the situation, and this has caused fear among those who did not escape the conflict-affected areas and surrounding villages. There is also a high risk of forced recruitment by AS, as a form of retaliation should the counterattack occur.

The PSMN documented two civilian deaths and three injuries.

[1] Somalia 2024 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan

Protection Risks

Forced recruitment and association of children in armed forces and groups: The displaced people have voiced concern that the risk of AS forcibly recruiting men and boys including children from the conflict-affected areas as a form of retaliation is very high.

Child and forced family separation: The conflict caused several people to flee mainly on foot, increasing the risk of family separation, especially for persons with disabilities and children.

Unlawful impediments or restrictions to freedom of movement, siege and forced displacement: Given the ongoing tensions and the high likelihood of continued clashes between the Jubbaland forces and AS, an increase in forced displacement is anticipated**.** There is also limited access to newly recovered areas in the district as situation remains unpredictable.

Urgent Needs

The newly displaced people require humanitarian assistance, as such, there is a need for humanitarian actors to scale up their response, which should be efficiently coordinated. Afmadow district is a Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) priority district, and it has an active Area-Based Coordination (ABC) mechanism which should be relied on to activate the Inter-sectoral Response Framework (IRF) in the affected areas.

Newly displaced IRF response package:

Protection

Services
Identification and referral of protection cases.
Inclusion of People with Special Needs (PSN): elderly and disability
Community-led protection initiatives
Protection desks and complaint feedback mechanisms.

Food

Commodities
Ready-to-eat foods and/or one-off HH food assistance
Ready to use therapeutic and supplementary foods

Shelter and NFI

Commodities
Dignity kits
Shelter kits (tarps, blanket, sleeping mat, mosquito net, jerrycan, kitchen set and solar lamp)

WASH

Commodities
Hygiene kits
Oral Rehydration Salts
Services
Safe drinking water

The PSMN (Protection & Solutions Monitoring Network) is a UNHCR-led project in partnership with NRC which identifies and reports on displacements as well as protection risks and incidents underlying such population movements. On behalf of UNHCR and the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), 26 local partners in the field in Somalia (South Central regions, Puntland and Somaliland) undertake data gathering (primarily through interviews with affected communities and key informants) and monitoring at strategic locations.

For detail statistical information on displacement and protection trends, please refer to PSMN interactive dashboard **https://prmn-somalia.unhcr.org and on GitHub https://unhcr.github.io/dataviz-somalia-prmn/index.html.**

To request further information on displacement and protection monitoring, please contact **SOMMOPMN@UNHCR.ORG**